(iii) Reduction in expenditure on outside repairs of aircraft by undertaking more in-house repairs;

(iv) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished;

(v) Two voluntary schemes have been notified viz., shorter working week scheme and leave without pay/allowances scheme for a period of two years extendable upto five years;

(vi) rolling back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years.

Frequent Flyer Programme by IA

3810. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the measures which are being taken up to achieve a major market share for IA in the highly competitive domestic sector; and

(b) whether the promotional package of "Frequent Flyer Programme" is a booster to its sales; if so, the detailed figures thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Indian Airlines has taken the following steps to retain a major share in the highly competitive domestic aviation market:

—Improvement in customer services;

—Product upgradation;

—Marketing initiatives.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Frequent Flyer Programme (FFP) has helped Indian Airlines in retaining a sizeable number of passengers who frequently travel by air on business as well as personal trips.

In the financial year 1999-2000, Indian Airlines earned a revenue of Rs. 57 crores through FFP members travel.

Expansion of services by AI

3811. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India proposes to expand its fleet to different destinations;

(b) if so, the routes in which Air India was operating its fleet;

(c) the new routes/destinations to which Air India proposes to introduce its services; and

(d) the details of the fleet expansion programme planned by Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) At present there is no proposal to expand Air India fleet to cover additional destinations;

(b) Air India is presently operating to USA, Europe, Moscow, Japan, Hongkong, South East Asia, Africa and Gulf;

(c) Air India has not planned any new services in the near future due to capacity constraints;

(d) Does not arise.

Caribjet Deal by AI

3812. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appearing in the Pioneer dated 30th March , 2000 under the Caption 'After Caribjet, AIMD faces another probe'; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the loss suffered by AI as a result of the action taken by its MD for appointing a consultant?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) A retired employee of Air India had been appointed as a consultant from October 1997 by Air India. His appointment has since been terminated on 15.04.2000. He was one of the officers named in the report dated 21.12.98 of the Chief Vigilance Officer of Air India in Atmaram Mansion (former Scindia House) case for certain alleged lapses. However, no loss to Air India can be attributed to this appointment.

Replacement of Aircraft by AI and IA

3813. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled "Airbus Industry hopes to clinch Rs. 10,000 crores deal" which appeared in the Indian Express dated 15th March, 2000;